



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK LANGUAGE TO LIFT SANCTIONS OFF INDIA AND PAKISTAN INCLUDED IN DEFENSE BILL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs announced today that his amendment allowing a presidential waiver on sanctions placed on India and Pakistan was included as a part of the Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Bill.

"I am excited for Kansas business and agriculture that this amendment, which allows for the lifting of sanctions off India and Pakistan, was included in the DOD Appropriations bill today," Brownback said. "This legislation would allow Kansas businesses who trade with India and Pakistan to benefit; and both nations will be open to purchasing Kansas commodities.

"The United States will now have the ability to waive sanctions on these two vital nations -- both of which are of great importance to the United States.

"U.S. interests will be better served by dealing with India and Pakistan, rather than by cutting them off entirely. We should not be in the business of sanctioning our friends and allies," Brownback said.

The bill provides the president with a permanent waiver on the economic sanctions placed on India and Pakistan. It also provides the president with a waiver on the sanctions imposed by the Glenn Amendment (which had been imposed after the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in 1998).

Waivers for military sales, dual use technologies (those that don't directly contribute to nuclear programs) and foreign military financing are also a part of the legislation. In addition, this bill provides the president with a waiver for the Pressler Amendment which was a previous military sanction on Pakistan, and until now, had not been open to a waiver.

The language that was accepted by the DOD conferees was the entire package proposed by Brownback. The bill now will be up for a vote for final passage in the Senate and House. Following passage in both houses, the legislation goes to the president for his signature.